

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 385

Recognizing and honoring the 40th anniversary of congressional passage of
the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BYRD, Mr. MILLER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring the 40th anniversary of
congressional passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Whereas 2004 marks the 40th anniversary of congressional
passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C.
2000a et seq.);

Whereas the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the result of dec-
ades of struggle and sacrifice of many Americans who
fought for equality and justice;

Whereas generations of Americans of every background sup-
ported Federal legislation to eliminate discrimination
against African-Americans;

Whereas a civil rights movement developed to achieve the
goal of equal rights for all Americans;

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Whereas President John F. Kennedy, on June 11, 1963, proposed in a nationally televised address that Congress pass civil rights legislation to address the problem of invidious discrimination;

Whereas a broad coalition of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations created national support for civil rights legislation, culminating in a 1963 march on Washington;

Whereas during consideration of the legislation involved, Congress added a historic prohibition against discrimination based on sex;

Whereas Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and President Lyndon Johnson signed the Act into law on July 2, 1964;

Whereas the Civil Rights Act of 1964, among other things, prohibited the use of Federal funds in a discriminatory fashion, barred unequal application of voter registration requirements, encouraged the desegregation of public schools and authorized the Attorney General to file suits to force the desegregation, banned discrimination in hotels, motels, restaurants, theaters, and all other places of public accommodation engaged in interstate commerce, and established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission;

Whereas title VII of the Act not only prohibited discrimination by employers on the basis of race, color, religion, and national origin, but sex as well, thereby recognizing the national problem of sex discrimination in the workplace;

Whereas Congress has amended the Civil Rights Act of 1964 from time to time, with major changes that strengthened the Act;

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Whereas the amendments made to the Act by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 made changes that, among other things, gave the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission litigation authority, thereby giving the Commission the right to sue nongovernment respondents, made State and local governments subject to title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, made educational institutions subject to title VII of the Act, and made the Federal Government subject to title VII, thereby prohibiting Federal executive agencies from discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin;

Whereas the amendments made to the Act and other civil rights legislation amended or added by the Civil Rights Act of 1991 clarified congressional intent regarding the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (in light of several contrary Supreme Court decisions rendered in the late 1980s) and allowed for the recovery of fees and costs in lawsuits in which the plaintiffs prevailed, for jury trials, and for the recovery of compensatory and punitive damages in intentional employment discrimination cases, and also expanded title VII protections to include congressional and high level political appointees; and

Whereas the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the most comprehensive civil rights legislation in the Nation's history: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes and honors the 40th anniversary
3 of congressional passage of the Civil Rights Act of
4 1964;

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1 (2) applauds all persons whose support and ef-
2 forts led to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
3 and

4 (3) encourages all Americans to recognize and
5 celebrate the important historical milestone of the
6 congressional passage of the Civil Rights Act of
7 1964.

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